

Spring 1-1-2014

SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2014

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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Recommended Citation

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, "SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2014" (2014). *Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter*. Paper 23.
<http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa/23>

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SJSU

ERFA

News

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

Special Event Outing

The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford

By Don Keesey (English)

Our spring excursion this year will take us to the Stanford campus where we will have a docent-guided tour of the Cantor Arts Center. The Center's permanent collections are impressive. They include two large rooms of pre-twentieth-century European and American art and several galleries devoted to modern art, with an emphasis on Bay Area artists. The Center also has galleries with Asian, African, Oceanic, and Native-American art. And to the side of the museum there is the renowned Rodin sculpture garden. In addition to



Ming Buddha, Bronze

the permanent collection, the Center will be showing several special exhibitions, including "American Photographs: A Cultural History" and on the day of our visit, a new exhibition intriguingly titled "Inside Rodin's Hands: Art, Technology, and Surgery."

The guided tour is scheduled for April 9, at 1 p.m. We can enjoy lunch at the Center's "Cool Café" overlooking the Rodin sculptures. But the café has limited seating, so plan to get there when it opens at 11. We won't have a bus this time, but we can provide free parking for those who sign up for the tour. Reservations are required. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Remembrance of Things Past

Lois Rew and Nils Peterson share some vivid memories of their early teen years on pages four and five.

SJSU-ERFA Board

Call for nominations

Our Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 9, 2014, doubles as our annual Business Meeting. That is when we elect our officers for the upcoming year.

We have both elective offices and appointive positions that are open to members interested in serving our organization. The elective offices to be filled this year are: Vice President (to serve as President in the 2015-16 year), Treasurer (a two-year term), Academic Senate Representative and two Members-at-Large.

In addition, our nominating committee will recommend to the Board appointments to the following positions: Membership, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Conso-lations, Activities, Archivist, and CSU-ERFA Representative.

If you would like to be a candidate for any of these positions, please email Gene Bernardini (gebernard@comcast.net) for details. The deadline is April 19.



Has your email address changed?

ERFA's email list notifies members of upcoming ERFA events and news items related to ERFA members and SJSU. Carol Christensen noticed that a few of the email addresses in the Directory are incorrect. If you have email and do not receive a copy of this newsletter via email, please send your correct email address to chriwolf@pacbell.net.

calendar

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Cantor Art Center
Stanford University
(See enclosed flyer)

Friday, May 9, 2014

Spring Luncheon
The Villages
(Mailer to follow)

University and Academic Senate Report

“Enhanced Turmoil”

By Peter Buzanski

(Academic Senate Representative)

In the previous issue, I discussed the subject of lowered morale on campus, due in part to the alleged hate-crime that took place against an African-American freshman in a campus dormitory. Since that event, the suicide of another student in a different dormitory has taken place. Overarching these tragic events is the Chancellor's creation of a three-person task force in response to an Academic Senate resolution of last

November requesting a review of SJSU administrative governance. This task force has already been on campus. It is currently consulting with as many representative groups as possible in a confidential manner, allowing speakers to state their views and respond to questions asked by task force members. Each member of the task force has wide experience with academic administrative methods. One is a retired faculty at CSU Humboldt, another is a former SJSU president

(Joseph Crowley) and the third is a member of the Chancellor's staff. One or more additional trips to the SJSU campus are contemplated by the task force and other people will be interviewed elsewhere, including our former Provost, Ellen Junn. Since my own career at SJSU extends from 1960 to the present, I too am submitting a written report to the Chancellor's task force.

Regarding the alleged hate-crime, President Qayoumi appointed a San Francisco law firm to present a fact-finding report about the incident. The law firm is headed by Myron Moye, an African-American attorney. The firm has already submitted a more-than-fifty-page report. It is a careful, chronological account that covers what took place, who knew about it, what they did, to whom they reported, and what the officials did. The report clearly shows that, as each incident took place, the person identified only as “the victim” made every effort to vehemently urge that no one, not his parents, other students, any dormitory personnel, university officials or campus police, be notified. This report, for whatever reason, was quickly denounced by the Black Student caucus on campus. At the same time that President Q appointed the Moye firm, he also impaneled a task force headed by retired judge LaDoris Cordell to study the Moye report and make recommendations to the university. Judge Cordell, again an African-American, has already begun to meet with her group and a report is scheduled to be completed prior to the end of the current semester. This task force consists of various members of

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SJSU ERFA Officers, 2013-14

President -- Carmen Sigler

Vice Pres. -- Joan Merdinger

Secretary -- Jo Bell Whitlatch

Treasurer -- Abdel El-Shaieb

Members at Large -- Marian Yoder
Cindy Margolin

Bill McCraw

Academic Senate -- Peter Buzanski

Past President -- Jill Cody

Ex Officio Members

Newsletter Gene Bernardini (Editor) and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design)

Membership Wayne Savage **Consolations** Jill Cody

Activities Dolores Escobar-Hamilton **Archivist** Lonna Smith
Barbara Conry **CSU-ERFA Reps** Don Keesey
Bob Wilson
Joan Merdinger

ERFA Member-at-Large--Adnan Daoud

Webmaster--Carol Christensen

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Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

That's the *Holiday* spirit!

Photos by Dennis Wilcox

Enjoying the Holiday Celebration at the MLK Library last December are (right) Natalie and Fred Schutz; (middle) Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Pat Daoud and Mary Lou White; (bottom) Rob Moore and Gene Bernardini; Carmen Sigler and Dick Ellefsen.



Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

Junior High School Memories

By Lois Rew (English)

Two teachers from my Lincoln Junior High years in Illinois remain in my memory: both were a little weird, and perhaps the more memorable for that.

Miss Nell Barton Hall was the teacher for our required seventh-grade Foods class, where we girls learned how to cook. (The boys had required shop classes.) The classroom was furnished like a science lab with cooking stations, each with a sink, gas burners and a preparation counter. Four girls, each in white bib aprons and hairnets (hairnets!) cooked at one station. We were to learn how to set a table, plan a meal and prepare the food.

However, we spent most of our time scrubbing, washing, cleaning and watching Miss Hall battle dirt, ordinary germs and exotic pathogens that she thought were about to take over the classroom. We had to scrub our sinks with a cork and scouring powder, and we had to wash our hands constantly — before we began work, after each step of food preparation, before we washed our dishes, when we finished washing our dishes, and after we put the dishes away. We even had to wash the clean dishes we removed from the cabinet before we could use them again. We had very little time to cook.

And poor Miss Hall. If the classroom phone rang, she

would first spray the receiver with a bleach-water mixture, wipe it off, and then interpose a tissue between her hand and the offending object. We noted, with some relief, that Miss Hall retired in the spring of 1949. She now could take her battle against germs to her own home.

My eighth grade English teacher was Miss Rudolph (Miss “Minette” Rudolph, I just discovered from the yearbook). In that year our curriculum concentrated on



grammar, and Miss Rudolph tackled grammar with delight. “Now class” she would begin, tapping a 12-inch ruler in her left hand, “today we will learn the prepositions. Open your books to page 72. There, do you see the list of prepositions? Good. Pay close attention, please. We are going to read them aloud today. Then you are to memorize them. Each day as we begin class, we will recite them together.”

She would pull her sturdy wooden desk chair to the chalkboard and then, to our astonishment, clamber up on the chair. Ruler in hand, she’d turn to face us, lifting the ruler like a conductor’s baton. “Ready?

Together now: About, Above, Across, After, Against, Along, Among, Around, At. Before, Behind, Below, Beneath . . .” With each word came the downbeat, then a swoop to the side; word by word, she conducted us like a choir. Every day we repeated those prepositions until they burrowed their way into our very souls. Then we learned the coordinate conjunctions “And, But, Or . . .”

We ached to snicker, but dared not, for Miss Rudolph’s temper was legendary. Our nickname for Miss Rudolph was “Piano Legs,” and by climbing on her chair, she exposed those legs for all to see. Poor Miss Rudolph: we made her such a target of our jokes.

Now years too late, I offer her an apology and a thank you. The apology is for not understanding that I was learning useful stuff, for those lists of prepositions and conjunctions have stayed in my memory. I can still recite them at will, and for many years I riffled through the list to determine if that word I saw on the page was indeed a preposition.

The thank you is also for this story. All during my 27-year career as a college professor, I taught writing classes, and for 15 of those years I was an editing specialist. Writing and editing demand excellent grammar, and grammar includes prepositions, and teaching about prepositions always led me to this story. While I never made my students memorize the prepositions, I always told them about Miss Rudolph and how she conducted our recitations. They laughed. But they also remembered the story, which helped them remember the prepositions.

Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

A Thing of Beauty

By Nils Peterson (English/Humanities)

My father could not give it away, the Stromberg-Carlson, when the tubes failed — the age of the console radio had passed — nor could he throw it away because the wood was so beautiful. He who had worked in a cabinet maker’s shop as a young man, loved the grain of hardwoods with his eye and hand. So it was moved into my bedroom where it sat, a mahogany god no one listened to any more.

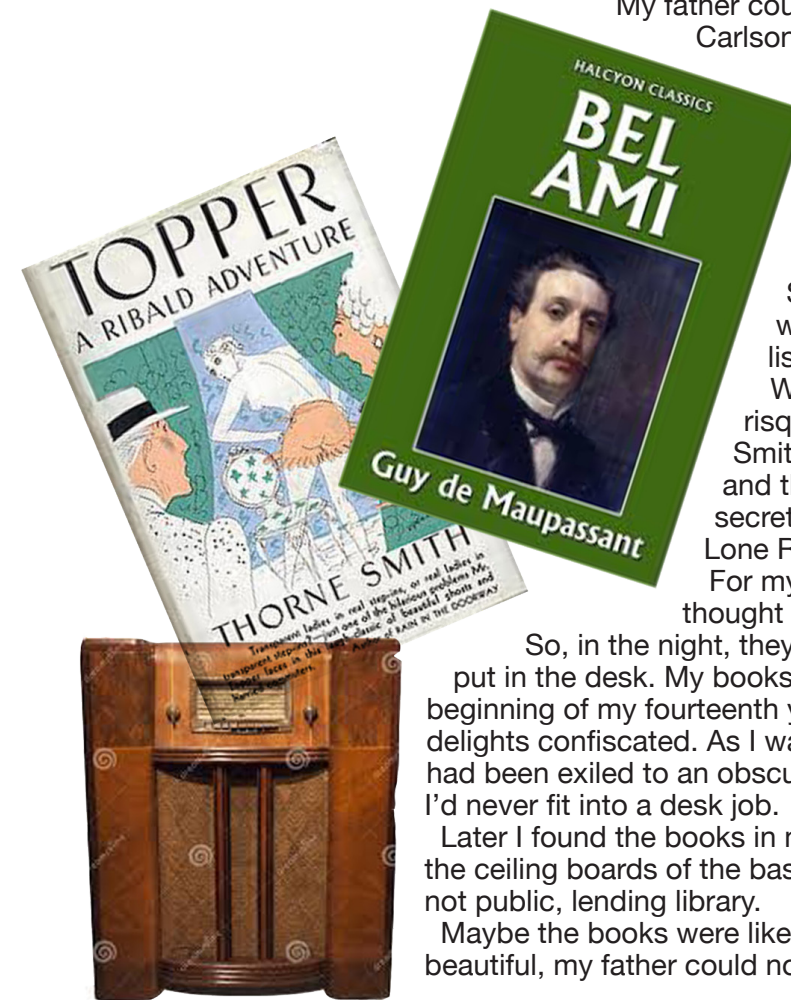
When I grew older, I hid books, risqué, not pornographic — Thorne Smith, Guy de Maupassant (Bel Ami) and the like — in among the tubes, my secret cave — like the mine where the Lone Ranger cast his silver bullets.

For my thirteenth birthday, my parents thought a reader like me could use a desk.

So, in the night, they came and carried out the radio to put in the desk. My books fell on the floor like original sin. The beginning of my fourteenth year was not a happy one — my delights confiscated. As I walked about the house, I felt as if I had been exiled to an obscure, but Lutheran, Elba. I knew then, I’d never fit into a desk job.

Later I found the books in my father’s own secret cave, up in the ceiling boards of the basement. So, I had another, though not public, lending library.

Maybe the books were like the radio — something in them so beautiful, my father could not throw them away.



Nils Peterson, an ERFA member and the first Poet Laureate of Santa Clara County, has just published a memoir on eChapbook.com. Chapbook is a very selective electronic website that publishes fiction, memoirs and poetry. His work won the honor of being chosen in a competition. Some of Peterson’s prose poems have appeared in this newsletter before. The selection above is from his new memoir, entitled Talk in the Reading Room.

Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members.
 Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at geebernard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

• **Cindy Margolin** (Psych/ Undergrad Studies, '04) and friend Donna Ziel last Fall traveled the old Silk Road through the remote Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China. The area is bordered by the various "stans" (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, etc.), as well as Mongolia and the Taklimakan Desert. "This Muslim-dominated culture was unlike anything either of us had ever seen in our previous trips to China," she writes. "Lots of delicious lamb and yogurt, camels, ancient Buddhist caves, desert-preserved "mummies," bearded men, beautiful head-scarved women and gorgeous children."

• **Betty Auchard** (widow of Denny Auchard, Education) is almost finished with her third manuscript, entitled *Living with 12 Men*. It's about her experiences as a house mother to a dozen boys at York College (a Christian school in Nebraska) where she and Denny were supervisors the first year he began teaching. A young bride, she was about the same age as the boys she was in charge of and has some lively memories of that time. Today she remains busy speaking "to any organization that wants me" and loves it. Her earlier two books are available on amazon.com and she continues to blog new stories that can be read on her website: www.bettyauchard.com.

• **Kathy Carmona** (Special Ed, '96) visited East Africa (Tanzania and Kenya) last Fall and found it "Incredible!" The people and animals were so captivating that she ended up with over 900 photos.

• **Jim Asher** (Psychology, '92)

just published *Let's Make Sense of Algebra*, which sounds like a book we all could benefit from. It's available through amazon.com.

• **J. Michael Sproule** (Communication Studies, '01) and his wife Betty recently published their self-help book called *The Stuff Cure: How We lost 8000 Pounds of Stuff for Fun, Profit, Virtue and a Better World*. It too is available on amazon.com.

• **Rob Moore** (Applied Arts & Sciences, '83) after the loss of his dear wife, Thea, has moved into the Merrill Gardens Retirement Community in Campbell.

• **Vida Kenk** (Biology, '06) and her husband Bill became grandparents for the first time last April. Though they continue to live near Arnold in the Sierra at 5000 feet, they happily come down to the Bay Area more often to visit their daughter's family.

• **Benton White** (Religious Studies, '92) and his wife, Mary Lou, spent two weeks in France last year, visiting places they always wanted to see. Besides traveling, Benton plays golf four times a week and they both keep busy with various meetings, visiting grandchildren in Sacramento and enjoying lunches with friends. Still in good health, they feel lucky to be able to experience "the good things old age makes possible, particularly the ERFA events which bring us in touch with our SJSU family."

• **Tikey Zes** (Music, '91) is proud to announce that he has reached his 86th birthday this past year and is still active in Greek Orthodox Church work. Three months ago, in December, 2013, a new disc of his choral work, *The Divine Liturgy*

of *Saint John Chrysostom*, was re-issued. He published his original composition in 1991, followed by an expanded version in 1996.

• **Steve Achtenhagen** (Marketing, '97) visited France in July, 2013, where he took a river trip from Marseilles to Paris on the Rhone-Saone Rivers. He enjoyed seeing the Provencal countryside with its vineyards and cathedrals and spent an overnight in Monaco and Paris.

• **Carol Mukhopadhyay** (Anthropology, '11) finished a manuscript for the Second Edition of *How Real is Race: A Sourcebook on Race, Culture and Biology* (with SJSU's Rosemary Henze and Yolanda Moses). She also took trips to Finland, Russia and the Baltics; then Florida and Cuba (through Global Exchange). She also has been doing lots of Chamber Music playing.

• **Jill Steinberg** (Undergrad Studies, '07) started a website that deals with successful retirement: *MyRetirementWorks.com*. "You can find out why so many people say 'these are the best years of my life'." Go there to join the conversation, read stories and see the latest research. Jill recently gave a webinar at Boston University about retiring successfully.

• **Cal Stevens** (Geology, '98) has just published a book entitled *On the Other Side of Brokeback Mountain*. Cal says the book "paints a different picture of life in Wyoming from that indicated by Annie Proulx and in the movie version of her famous story." It is now available on Amazon.

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In Memoriam

• **Jack Haeger** (English, '98) passed away on December 22, 2013, after a massive heart attack. He was stricken in Mexico where he and his wife of 37 years, Janice Patten, owned a home, and died a few days later in a San Diego hospital. Jack was born in Detroit, MI, in 1936 and earned his BA in English in 1965 and his PhD in 1971 at the Univ. of Washington. His field of study was English Romanticism, with a special focus on Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Jack published book reviews for the journal *Romanticism, Past and Present* and several articles on the Romantic poets. He began teaching at SJSU in 1971 and in 1988 became Chair of the English Dep't., serving for ten years. He also chaired the Professional Standards Committee of the Academic Senate.

Jack was something of a renaissance man with many diverse interests. He was an automobile aficionado who calculated he had owned 57 different cars over his lifetime, most of which he kept running by cannibalizing parts from others. He was a stalwart handyman who had enough tools and knowhow to fix almost anything around a house. In addition, he loved biking and hiking, often traversing the Lake Country in England while attending Wordsworth Conferences there. After retiring, he became an inveterate bridge player who participated in tournaments and helped organize the American Contract Bridge League in Baja, California. He was actually playing bridge when he was stricken with cardiac arrest and fell over backwards in his chair. He is survived by his wife, Jan, his daughter, Kim, and three children, Marc, Ted and Anita, from a previous marriage.

• **Carol Anne Smith Haws** (Dance) died in Farr West, Utah, on January 14, 2014, at the age of 80. Carol attended Pasadena City College, Brigham Young Univ., the Univ. of Utah and UCLA, where she earned her Masters degree in Dance. She was married and divorced twice, but remarried her second husband, Lavon Haws, who now survives her. Carol taught dance at SJSU for 27 years, directing and choreographing many shows at the University. She also was active in various community theaters throughout the Bay Area. Carol was a lifelong member of the Mormon Church and directed the annual Oakland Temple Pageant four times. She leaves behind seven children, 27 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

• **Stephen French** (Art & Design, '98) passed away on February 4, 2014, after a brief illness. He was born in Seattle, WA, in 1934, where he grew up and later taught, as well as at universities in Wisconsin and the Bay Area. Steve was a noted visual artist whose works have been shown throughout the US and in England. His prints, paintings and sculptures are in collections at both the San Francisco and San Jose Museums of Art., as well as in the Universities of Oklahoma, Wisconsin and the University of the Pacific. He is known for his abstract works reflecting the poetry, music and humor with which he surrounded himself. He described himself as "an undeconstructed, unreformed modernist."

At SJSU, Steve became Professor of Art and Chairman of the Art Dep't, and served as Assoc. Dean and Acting Dean of the School of

Humanities and Arts. He also was Chair of the SJ Fine Arts Commission and sat on the Board of Trustees of the SJ Art Museum. Steve loved life, literature (especially poetry), music, film and good conversation. He had a strong voice and loved to sing, often announcing his arrival with a tune—a WW II ditty, a folk song, an aria or something from an operetta or an American musical. After retiring, he continued with his art projects and most recently was working on a series of darkly beautiful gentian flowers. He is survived by his artist wife, Wanda Waldera, and his children, Sandy, Ken, Kathy and Elly.



Ken Blasé (Journalism/Mass Communications, '01) passed away on or about February 20, 2014, in Camas, Washington, where he has been living since retirement. He was 78 and had a history of heart problems. Before coming to SJSU, Ken had been a premier anchor on radio when the 24-hour local news format took off in the 1970s. He then left radio to join the broadcast journalism faculty at SJSU. He completed law school while working toward tenure, and later became Department Chair and then Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. He also served as Assoc. Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. He is survived by his wife Judith, who hopes to organize a memorial service for him in San Jose on April 26, 2014, for his many friends and colleagues in the area. That day will mark the 55th wedding anniversary of what she described as "a fairy tale life together."



Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
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News

Chat Room

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• **Embert Hendrickson** (History, '97) and his wife, Linda, traveled to Virginia in December to visit their son, Noel, and his wife. Noel took his undergraduate degree at SJSU and is now Assoc. Prof. and Director of the Institute for National Security Analysis at James Madison University. While in VA, the Hendricksons traveled to various historical sites. They also were pleased to learn they'll become first-time grandparents this coming May.

University and Academic Senate Report *"Enhanced Turmoil"*

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the campus community, students, administrators and faculty, as well as off-campus personnel. But the teaching faculty have virtually no opportunity to serve on the task force because the schedule prescribed by the administration interferes with teaching responsibilities. Meanwhile, the meetings of Judge Cordell's group are open and are being streamed to achieve maximum transparency.

Finally, concerning "Hybrid and Online Courses and Programs," I am delighted to report that President Q has signed the policy recommendation passed by the Senate in Spring, 2013. This policy seeks to assure that the content of hybrid and online courses has the same learning objectives, quality and outcomes as classroom instruction courses